

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is requested. Claim 25 has been added and claims 1-25 are now pending. Claims 1, 17 and 25 are independent claims.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner objects to claims 2, 3, 6, 19 and 20 due to alleged informalities. Applicants have amended these claims taking into account the Examiner's comments. Withdrawal of these objections is requested because all of the alleged informalities are believed to have been corrected by way of this response.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

In rejecting claims 5 and 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, the Examiner alleges that "C-arm," is an essential element omitted from these claims. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree, Applicants have amended claims 5 and 10-16, taking into account the Examiner's suggestions and comments. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 6 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0186813 ("Tamura"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

I. THE REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3, 6 AND 17-20 SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN BECAUSE TAMURA DOES NOT SUPPRESS A READOUT WITHOUT A DESIRED SIGNAL INCLUDING IMAGE INFORMATION BEFORE AN EXPOSURE OF THE CCD CAMERA WHEN AN EXTERNAL PULSE TRIGGER OCCURS, AS REQUIRED BY CLAIM 1.

The Examiner alleges that the computer 5002 and the initialization process of Tamura constitute the, "*system control*," and the "*readout of the CCD camera without a desired signal*," of claim 1, respectively. *Office Action*, pp. 3. Moreover, the Examiner alleges that the interruption of the initialization process of Tamura allegedly constitutes the suppressing of such a read out. However, the initialization process of Tamura cannot constitute the readout of the CCD camera without a desired signal because the initialization process of Tamura is not, "*suppressed before an exposure of the CCD camera*," when an external trigger pulse occurs at a point in time at which a readout of the CCD camera is to take place. To the contrary, the initialization process of Tamura is interrupted and restarted from the beginning. *Tamura*, paragraph [0045]. That is, the current initialization process is stopped and restarted. Therefore, Tamura fails to anticipate claim 1 because the current initialization process of Tamura is not suppressed, but instead is merely restarted before being completed. *Id.* For at least the foregoing reasons, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Independent claim 17 is in condition for allowance for at least reasons somewhat similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Claims 2-3,

6 and 18-20 are also allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with regard to claims 1 or 17.

FURTHER PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

The Examiner rejects claims 4 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tamura and U.S. Patent No. 5,117,446 ("Haaker"). This rejection is respectfully traversed in that even assuming *arguendo* that Haaker could be combined with Tamura (which Applicants do not admit), the alleged combination still fails to teach or suggest all features of claims 1 or 17 because Haaker suffers from the same deficiencies as Tamura with regard to claim 1. Therefore, the rejection of claims 4 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

NEW CLAIM 25

Applicants have added new claim 25, which is also believed to be allowable over the prior art of record. Although somewhat similar arguments to those set forth above may apply, new claim 25 should be interpreted solely by the limitations presented therein.

CONCLUSION

In view of above remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Andrew M. Waxman, Reg. No. 56,007, at the number of the undersigned listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit

Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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